



ANHA  
NOVEMBER 2008

# NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS Alliance Update

## National Heritage Area evaluation project now underway

Per Public Law 110-229, nine National Heritage Areas (NHAs) will soon be undergoing a Congressionally-mandated evaluation process. The new legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to assess the progress each NHA has made in achieving the goals set forth in its authorizing legislation and management plan.

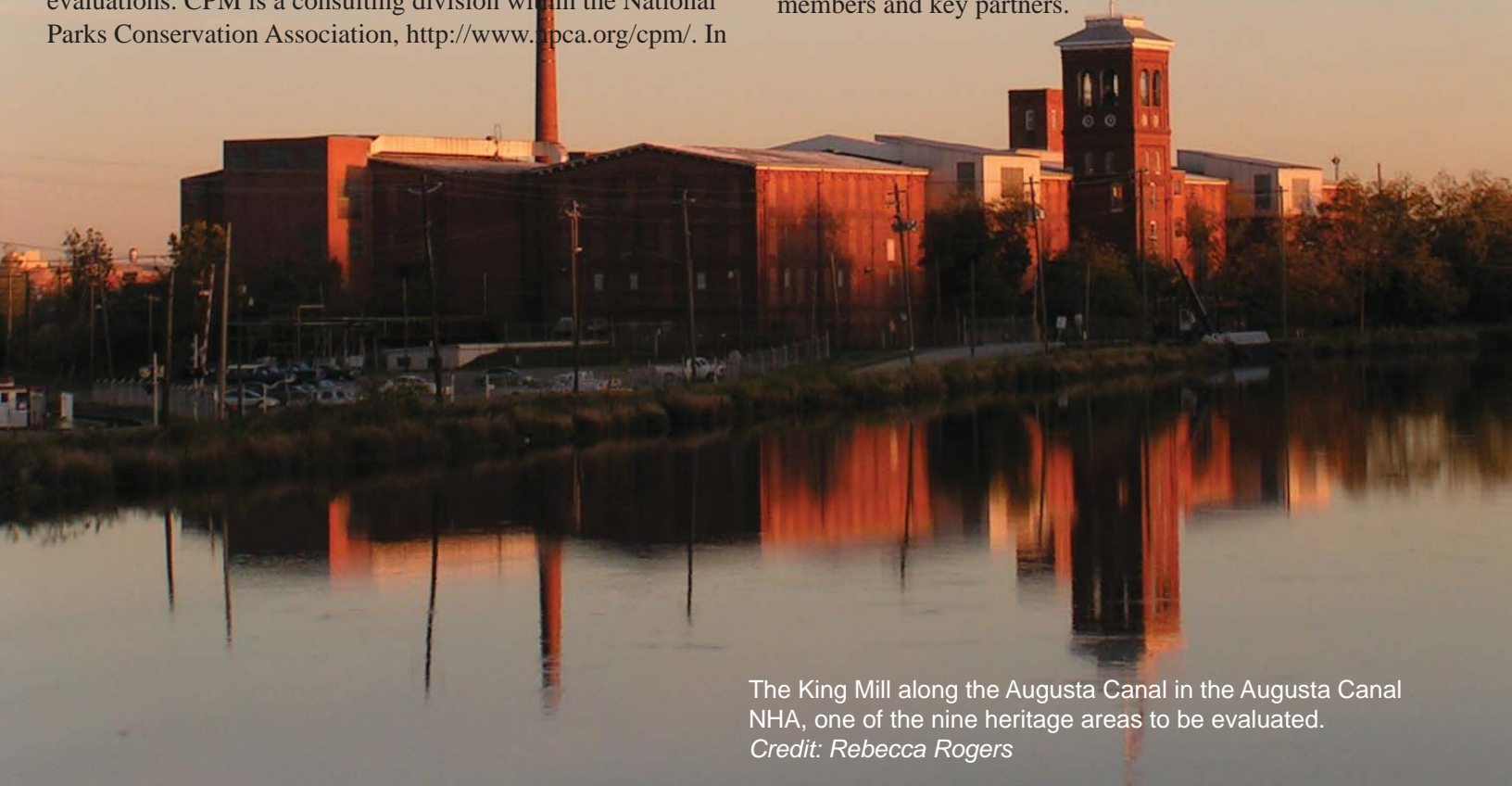
In addition, the legislation calls for analysis of investments and partnerships within the NHA, with the purpose of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

In order to meet this important Congressional mandate, a new evaluation tool will need to be developed, which can not only capture a NHA's distinctive character but also be applied to all areas as required by the legislation. The NPS will be working with the Center for Park Management (CPM) to complete the evaluations. CPM is a consulting division within the National Parks Conservation Association, <http://www.npca.org/cpm/>. In

addition, a steering committee to guide the evaluation process has been created. Members will review progress on the evaluation project, provide timely feedback at key points of the project and make recommendations for improving the evaluation process.

The nine participating NHAs were all designated in 1996, as part of Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act. They include Silos and Smokestacks NHA, Hudson River Valley NHA, Rivers of Steel NHA, Essex NHA, South Carolina NHC, Ohio and Erie NHC, Tennessee Civil War NHA, Augusta Canal NHA and National Coal HA.

In October, Essex National Heritage Area, in Massachusetts, was selected to be the pilot area for the evaluation process. In early November, a small team from the Center for Park Management (CPM) traveled to the NHA to meet with staff, board members and key partners.



The King Mill along the Augusta Canal in the Augusta Canal NHA, one of the nine heritage areas to be evaluated.

*Credit: Rebecca Rogers*

# NEWS *from the* HERITAGE AREAS

## Abraham Lincoln NHA sponsors “Looking for Your Lincoln Hero” global online essay and art contest



**Press conference announcing the “My Hero” essay contest, from l to r: Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL), Abraham Lincoln NHA Director Hal Smith, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL). Senator Durbin and Congressman LaHood are honorary co-chairs of the contest.**

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area recently announced sponsorship of the “Looking for Your Lincoln Hero” global online essay and art contest, highlighting the heroic qualities of Abraham Lincoln. The announcement was made at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. Attendees included Congressman Ray LaHood, US Lincoln Bicentennial Co-Chair, who holds Lincoln’s Congressional seat in Congress, and Senator Richard Durbin, US Lincoln Bicentennial Co-chair and senior Senator from Illinois. Both men are also honorary co-chairs of the essay competition.

Finalist judges for the contest include many real-life heroes. For example, Paul Rusesabagina, who saved more than 1,000 people during the Rwandan Genocide, will be a judge as will Marvel Comics creator Stan Lee. In addition, many preeminent Lincoln scholars will be reviewing essays and artwork, including Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director of the US Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and Dr. Marcia Young, Looking for Lincoln Board member and historian in Illinois.

The “My Hero Project” is a true web phenomenon that enjoys 2 million hits per month ([www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)). It is popular with teachers and students across the globe, as well as anyone else searching for positive images of heroes and role models. The Abraham Lincoln contest is intended to inspire and educate people around the world, who may never visit a Lincoln related historic site, but will now have the opportunity to learn about his life and legacy.



**Two USDA Borlaug Fellows from Ghana learn more about a John Deere combine on a visit to a family-owned Iowa farm.**

## International scientists learn from Silos and Smokestacks NHA

As part of the week long World Food Prize event, Silos & Smokestacks NHA hosted a group of 44 USDA Borlaug Fellows and other USDA officials on a tour of the Heritage Area. The Fellows, representing 18 countries, are part of a program that provides short-term scientific training for agricultural research scientists and policy makers from selected developing countries at U.S. land grant universities. “The Silos & Smokestacks tour is a highlight of the week for Borlaug Fellows, second only to their private lunch with Dr. Norman Borlaug,” said Abiola Adeyemi, USDA International Affairs Specialist. “We appreciate everything SSNHA does in showing us Iowa’s agricultural capacity during the harvest season.”

Held in conjunction with the 2008 Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium, “Confronting Crisis: Agriculture and Global Development in the Next Fifty Years,” the tour focused on emerging issues in agriculture. At Monsanto’s Global Plant Breeding facility, the Fellows learned about efforts to create high yield plant hybrids, while at the family-owned Griffieon Farm, they heard about the implications of farmland being diverted to urban development.

## Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA celebrates launch of new guide

The Crossroads of the American Revolution Association hosted a reception on October 30th at Drumthwacket, the New Jersey governor’s residence in Princeton, to launch a new publication, *Crossroads of the American Revolution Guide to New Jersey’s Revolutionary War Sites*. The Guide is a collaborative work, produced by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and printed by the Crossroads of the Ameri-

**NEWS, continued on page 3**



can Revolution Association with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs within the Department of State, the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas program, the Fund for New Jersey Historiography at the Community Foundation of New Jersey and the J. Seward, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust.

At the festive, well-attended gathering, guests from throughout the heritage area enjoyed 18th century music performed by the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps and the Practitioners of Musick. The event also celebrated the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris and delivery of the news of the signing by Colonel Matthias Ogden in 1783 to Congress at Princeton, then the nation's capital. On display that evening, in the library of the Governor's residence, were two pages of the Treaty itself, on loan from the New Jersey State Archives.



**The Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps welcome visitors to Drumthwacket, the New Jersey governor's residence.**  
*Credit: Robert Rosetta; AboutNewJersey.com*

## Essex NHA hosts National Parks Second Century Commission

The National Parks Second Century Commission, a panel formed in August 2008 to examine the national parks today and chart a vision for their future, visited Lowell National Historical Park and the Essex National Heritage Area on October 27 and 28, 2008. Lowell NHP and the Essex National Heritage Area were chosen because of their innovative approach to resource management and in particular, civic engagement and the development of innovative community partnerships.

The Second Century Commission is co-chaired by former senators Howard H. Baker and J. Bennett Johnson, and is made up of 30 national leaders, experts and thinkers drawn from a broad range of backgrounds, including scientists, historians, conservationists, academics, business leaders, policy experts, and retired National Park Service executives. Members include former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, John Fahey, president and corporate executive officer of the National Geographic Society, and the well-known historians James

McPherson and Gary Nash.

During their visit to the NHA, commissioners heard about the close cooperation between Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, and the Essex National Heritage Area. During a stop at Salem Maritime NHS, they were able to speak directly with the volunteers and partners who built the replica tall ship *Friendship*, a reconstruction of a 171-foot three-masted vessel originally completed in 1797.

## Augusta Canal National Heritage Area hosts French Delegation

In late October, the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area hosted a delegation from the Parc Regional Naturel de la Montagne de Reims, a regional nature park in the Champagne country of northeast France. Over the course of a week, the five French delegates toured Augusta, learning how history and culture can be utilized to promote sustainable economic development and improve quality of life for local residents. Highlights included a canoe trip down the Augusta Canal, a National Historic Landmark, as well as a tour of the Heritage Area's interpretive center, which occupies a former textile mill.

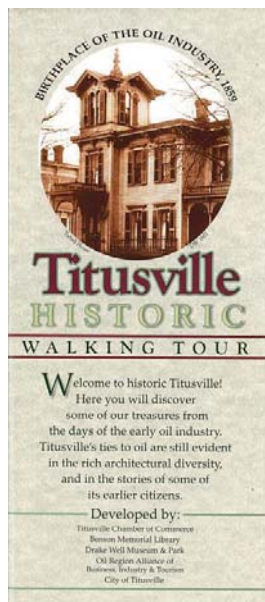
Regional Nature Parks or PNR are similar to National Heritage Areas (NHA) in that they support the conservation of living landscapes through partnerships and grassroots community involvement. The exchange between Augusta Canal NHA and La Montagne de Reims PNR builds on a 2007 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the French Federation of Regional Nature Parks. In the future, additional Heritage Areas hope to enter into partnerships with individual regional nature parks to support the exchange of best practices across international boundaries.



**Augusta Canal NHA staff people lead the members of the French Delegation on a canoe ride down the historic waterway.**

**NEWS, continued on page 4**

## Titusville's Historic Walking Tour expanded



### Newly designed brochure for Titusville Historic Walking Tour

The northern gateway to the Oil Region National Heritage Area, the City of Titusville, recently added ten interpretive panels to its historic walking tour. The fiberglass embedded interpretive panels describe the architecture of each respective structure and its significance to the Oil Heritage Region. The circuit now includes 21 stops, providing visitors with a glimpse of 22 historic properties of the "Queen City" of the Oil Region.

A dedication ceremony for the most recent set of interpretive panels and the newly designed brochure that guides visitors to the historic sites was held on October 21, 2008 on the grounds of the University of Pittsburgh – Titusville Campus inside McKinney Hall. McKinney Hall is one of the historic sites featured on the 2.3 mile walking

tour. This was a cooperative project of the City of Titusville and the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism. A committed team of volunteers researched and assisted in all aspects of developing this set of interpretive panels. Technical assistance was provided by Benson Memorial Library and Drake Well Museum and Park.

This project was financed in part by a Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation via the Oil Region Alliance. Matching funds were provided by the John Nesbit Rees and Sarah Henne Rees Charitable Foundation, the University of Pittsburgh – Titusville Campus, and Friends of Benson Memorial Library. For additional information on this project contact Kim Harris, project manager, at [kharris@oilregion.org](mailto:kharris@oilregion.org).

## PARTNER UPDATE

### National Park Service (NPS) National Heritage Area coordinators hold meeting in Santa Fe; Visit Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

In early November, NPS NHA regional coordinators as well as program staff from the Washington office met in Santa Fe, NM to coordinate heritage area activities for the upcoming year and beyond. Attendees discussed issues such as the feasibility study process and public affairs. As part of the gathering, NPS staff visited the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area (NRGNA), which stretches from Albuquerque to the Colorado border and includes Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Taos counties. Encompassing a mosaic of cultures and history, including the Jicarilla Apache, eight Pueblo tribes, and the descendants of Spanish colonists who settled in the area beginning in 1598, the heritage area is home to many significant historic sites and a cultural landscape that reflects long settlement of the region.

## Legislative Update

HR 5151 (Rahall, D-WV) with an amendment introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) on September 26, 2008. Title VIII of the amendment contains numerous provisions related to National Heritage Areas including new designations, feasibility studies and technical amendments to existing areas.

## Alliance of National Heritage Areas/National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program

*The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.*

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin. Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at [Eleanor\\_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov)
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# CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

## AASLH Performance Management Training

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Performance Management program offers training for conducting audience research and data analysis. It is designed for history museums, historic houses, and other history organizations. Registration is now open for the following 2009 Performance Management groups:

Museum Visitor Survey Program (begins in January); Historic House Visitor Survey Program (begins in January); Civil War Museum and Historic Site Visitor Survey Program; Education Survey Program (begins in August). For more information, visit [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).

## Conference on Cultural Respect in Preservation and Conservation

This year's North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPCC) annual conference will address the issues of cultural respect. Topics to be covered include interactions between collecting institutions and the community, restrictions on access and exhibition and preservation and conservation for culturally significant objects. This conference is being held at the Friday Center at UNC Chapel Hill on November 20, 2008. Details and registration may be found at <http://www.ncpreservation.org/>.

## ASSISTANCE/AWARDS

### Museum Assessment Program

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is supported through a cooperative agreement between the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Association of Museums. It is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future. MAP includes a period of self-study, peer review and implementation. Applications for the next round of MAP assessments are due February 15, 2008. For more information visit <http://www.aam-us.org/museumresources/map/index.cfm>.

### Institute of Museum and Library Services offers National Leadership Grants



The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is offering National Leader-

ship Grants to support projects that have the potential to elevate museum and library practice. Successful proposals will have national impact and generate results—new tools, research, models, services, practices, or alliances—that can be widely adapted or replicated to extend the benefit of federal investment. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/nationalLeadership.shtm>.

### Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants



Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants (SARE), a USDA competitive grants program, is offering a wide variety of grants to support the future economic viability of agriculture in the United States. These include grants to farmers, to communities and to partner organizations. Research and education are also funded. For more information visit <http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/grants.htm>.



# Featured

## Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area



**The majestic live oak is a common sight along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.**

The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (NHA) is a culturally, historically, and environmentally distinctive region where many chapters in the national story have been written. The bounties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's natural resources have brought people to this area from all over the world for thousands of years. The modern culture of the Coast consists of a multi-ethnic gumbo of people and traditions of Native American, European, African, and Asian descent.

With the support of Mississippi's Congressional delegation, the Mississippi Gulf Coast was designated a National Heritage Area on December 8, 2004. The summer after the Mississippi Gulf Coast was designated, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area, destroying many historic landmarks, making the mission of the Heritage Area of the utmost importance.

The mission of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is to promote the understanding, conservation and enhancement of the heritage resources of the six counties of



**Wetlands provide protection to the Gulf Coast during storm events and serve as nurseries to shrimp and fish.**

the Mississippi Gulf Coast by telling the area's nationally significant story to residents and visitors through activities and partnerships that celebrate the area's unique history, people, traditions, and landscapes.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA is a partnership of communities, businesses, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and individuals who value the region's rich cultural and environmental diversity, history, natural beauty, and traditions. This partnership presents the Mississippi Gulf Coast's distinctive story in terms of its national significance. Visitors experience the Heritage Area through a set of integrated themes that highlights the Coast's unique qualities and emphasizes the important role the region has played in the history of the United States.



**University of Southern Mississippi students work at the Moran Site.**

Mississippi Gulf Coast is currently working with the University of Southern Mississippi Department of Anthropology and Sociology, the City of Biloxi and the Moran family to preserve an almost 300-year-old French colonial cemetery located north of the Biloxi Lighthouse. The cemetery was revealed after the structures on the property were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The Moran site is significant to the study of daily life in the French colonial period, particularly in Biloxi, the first settlement in French colonial Louisiana, and the burial sites are especially valuable in the evidence they provide about the lifeways of the region's earliest settlers.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA continues to work with city and county leaders, state and federal partners and neighbors to preserve its rich cultural heritage as the Mississippi Gulf Coast rebuilds from Hurricane Katrina—the worst natural disaster to hit the United States in over 100 years. Grants have been given to reprint historical books lost as a result of Hurricane Katrina and to support the restoration and preservation of historical places. The landscape of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was changed, but the people who are the heritage and culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast remain resilient.